

Through the work program the student derives not only healthy exercise but a sense of the details arising from living in a group. He learns to collaborate with others and to undertake with them enterprises for the common good. A fundamental human problem is the search for the point of balance between the needs, rights, and responsibilities of the individual and the needs, rights, responsibilities of the group. The College feels it will have accomplished its purpose if students depart with specific knowledge in their field, techniques of work transferable to other fields, integrity and self-respect coupled with respect for others, and the ability to participate actively and with discrimination in the life of society.

FIELDS OF STUDY

Work in the arts depends upon the eye and the hand. In music it depends on the ear and the hand. Any branch of art carries with it a severe discipline different from but as rigorous as that inherent in physics or mathematics. But the disciplines in art are not necessarily measurable in terms of language. Truth depicted in graphic line, in solid mass, in sound, is none the less valid for absence of verbal expression, and its effect upon the human being is an extremely important part of his experience.

The specialized training yielded by language and literature goes further than the obvious advantages of reading and speaking a foreign language; it reveals the habits of thought and the structure of a language different from that native to us. In this era of universality the individual conversant with only one language and its concomitant thinking processes is limited in his understanding not only of the heritage of literature but of current thought.

Upon the sciences—physics, chemistry, mathematics in particular—today's thought places the burden of leadership. As in the past, what scientists learn affects philosophy, ethics, religion, art, technology, economics, sociology. Scientists discover that atomic energy can be controlled; for what purposes it shall be controlled depends upon the will and desire of human beings at large.

No one who has not studied what groups of people have done in the past can sensibly arrive at an opinion as to what society can do and should aim at. The social sciences embrace such realms as the recorded history of events, the customs and habits of social units, the relation of social units to each other, the integration of the individual and the group, methods of transferring goods from producer to consumer, the earth's capacity to produce in relation to the needs of the earth's population.

Black Mountain College, realizing that knowledge transcends subject, that each field carries its own techniques, that theoretical training is inadequate without practical experience, and intellectual education is inadequate with-